

Sample Slab Update #15 November 2016

The newsletter for sample slab collectors

Sample Discovered for Unlisted Grader – Star Grading Service



Sample Slab Update reader Barry Sites discovered the first known sample from third-party grader Star Grading Service, or SGS. This is a different company from Strategic Grading Service, the SGS listed in [Sample Slabs](#). Star Grading Service production slabs are common, and coins encapsulated by SGS usually trade for the same value as raw coins. This is the first one of which I know, however, with sample or related labeling. The label not only indicates this holder is a sample, but includes the words “Sample Slab.”

This brings the number of sample slab issuers from the 35 listed in the second edition of [Sample Slabs](#) to 36. It is hard to give a value for a holder with no comparables. Other scarce sample slabs trade at prices anywhere from \$15 – \$20 (DGS) to \$200 – \$300 (Hallmark). Based on the market’s opinion of SGS production slabs, I will guess at a value closer to the low end of that range at \$40 - \$50. In an eBay auction, however, anything could happen.

If you have other SGS samples or other unlisted graders, I am very interested in hearing from you.

Market Notes

The World’s Fair of Money and the Regency sample dominated coverage in the last two issues, so it is worth taking some time to discuss the overall state of the market. The market has been active in the late summer and fall, with increased activity and higher prices for common samples. As an example, standard PCGS rattler samples with serial numbers and MS64 graded dimes sold for an average of \$31 from September through the present. This is significantly higher than the catalog value for this holder, PCGS-010-1-3, of \$20. Several collectors are making date sets of this type, paying more for uncommon dates, such as the \$59 paid for a 1960 coin. However, even the most common 1964 and 1964D coins averaged \$27 in that period. The PCGS rattler is a perfect first coin for a sample collector and this increase bodes well for our specialty.

The PCGS Authentic wheat cents (PCGS-001-9-3) also lend themselves to date sets and an analysis of the prices and frequencies of each date would make a good article for another issue. Considering the recent market, on August 26 a collector went on a buying binge, apparently scooping up every Authentic slab for sale on eBay. On that date, 19 holders, with a variety of dates and sellers, sold for a total of \$216, or an average of about \$11. I have heard of collectors hoarding common slabs, either in anticipation of price increases or for the sheer joy of owning them.



The first Coinland sample to appear on eBay since I began keeping records sold for a healthy \$45, compared to a catalog value of \$6. With so few comparables for scarce slabs, the infrequent sales can vary widely higher or lower than my published values.

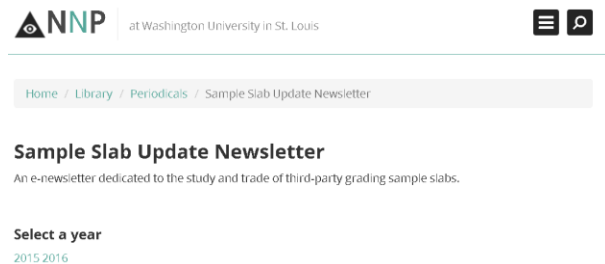
Showing the intense interest in PCGS varieties, a green label 1964 dime sample earned \$154.56 on 9/22/16. This slab (PCGS-010-3-10) differs from the very common similar samples in that this one has no grade and the word “SAMPLE” in the center of the label. One of the things I love about sample slabs is the way that common varieties like this one hide in plain sight. The last time one sold on eBay, it escaped notice and earned just \$12.

Newman Numismatic Portal Adds Sample Slab Update

The Newman Numismatic Portal added this newsletter to its holdings starting October 4. This web project, funded by prominent researcher and collector Eric P. Newman and hosted at Washington University in Saint Louis, is better known for its impressive collection of digitized classic numismatic works. In addition to the hard to find 19th century auction catalogs, the Portal holds more modest publications, such as this newsletter.

With its financial endowment and extensive computer backups, Sample Slab Update is now preserved and freely available for many years to come, in case it becomes useful for researchers of the future. Find back issues at <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/514437>.

Thank you to the Newman Numismatic Portal for including this publication in their archive. If you have not yet seen the NNP, and do any type of numismatic research, it is a valuable resource.



NGC Made a Chocolate Slab

In the [10/16/16 issue of the e-Sylum](#), well-known numismatist and author David Lange describes chocolate NGC slabs given away by the grading service at coin shows in 1994. He writes, “Each was a full size replica of an early NGC holder made entirely of chocolate and covered in gold-colored foil. Molded into it was the image of a Franklin Half Dollar dated 1953, as I recall.” The e-Sylum then [published my follow-up letter in the next issue 10/23/16](#). Given the tendency of collectors to save interesting objects, I would guess that some of these 22 year old candies still exist. Can anyone send me a picture? Or does anyone else recall receiving one at a coin show?

If you already subscribe to the e-Sylum free email newsletter, you know what a valuable resource it is. If you do not already subscribe, it is well worth your time to do so.

Book News

The second edition has been selling on SampleSlabBook.com for about four months. By this time, the first edition was old out, but I ordered a larger print run this time to make sure that does not happen again, at least not so soon. Mentions of the book on Web forums and eBay listings are becoming more common.

If you are reading this newsletter, you probably know about the second edition of [Sample Slabs](#), which adds 175 pages, 180 types, and 300 photos to the first edition. Send PayPal \$26 + \$5 shipping to davidschwager@hotmail.com. The PDF download is just \$12, and the book is also available on [eBay](#).

Sample Slabs as an Entry for Young Collectors



Many of us remember our childhood collecting days, looking through pocket change or rolls for small treasures. With a little work, we found items of value or at least of interest. Sample slabs provide the same opportunity for young collectors. They are not as accessible as the household change jar. A YN needs to make the effort to go to (or be taken to) a large coin show. Once there, however, collectibles are free for the taking. Young collectors fortunate enough to live near a major show and willing to invest an hour in the 'Treasure Trivia or Treasure Hunt challenge could get a slab worth \$10 and, in a few cases, worth \$30 to \$100. Mike Kittle had a full case of samples at the 2016 ANA and young collectors were often at his booth buying and selling.

A few of these YNs will remain collectors of samples, or of coins in general, later in life. It is possible that early 21st century young numismatist slabs could become valuable around 2050 – 2060 when nostalgia prompts middle-aged former YNs to rebuild their childhood collections.

If you are a young collector of samples, feel free to email me. I am interested in your thoughts.

Buying and Selling

Buying

Sample Slab Update reader Isaiah Hageman writes, "I am seeking PCGS sample slabs from Treasure Hunts. Email me a list of slabs for sale with pricing, and I will get back to you as soon as possible. My email is: isaiahh1215@icloud.com. Thanks!"

Selling

NGC state quarter lot of four. Includes:

Delaware – NGC-025-4-6. Catalog \$8

Indiana – NGC-025-4-27. Catalog \$10

Missouri – NGC-025-4-41. Catalog \$6

Florida – NGC-025-4-79. Catalog \$8

Good as a 50 state starter set or for a collector looking for inexpensive samples. Take all four (total catalog value \$32) for \$20 including shipping.



New NGC sample from the US-Mexican Numismatic Association Convention. This is an organization for collectors of Mexican and other Latin American coins. NGC made just 50 samples for the 2016 convention held October 6 – 8 in Scottsdale, Arizona. Surprisingly, the coin is neither US nor Mexican. Only one has appeared on eBay so far, and it earned \$40 on 9/29/16. \$32





Better NGC sample with Oak Tree sticker. This uncommon NGC sample (NGC-050-3-6) is made even more desirable with the addition of an Oak Tree sticker. \$50

PCGS Europe Sample. PCGS' Paris office gives away these France 10 euro cent samples at coin shows in Europe. Too new to have a catalog number. \$24

Free shipping on all orders. To order any of the above, send PayPal to davidschwager@hotmail.com. Email me if you prefer to pay another way, such as mailing a check.

If you would like to place a brief buy or sell ad in the next Sample Slab Update at no charge, please email me.



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